



## Primary School Student Council Policy

### Rationale

The School Council enables children to take responsibility for themselves and others and gives the children 'a voice'. It encourages them to make a positive contribution to their school, its environment and ethos. The Council promotes a sense of community within school and is used to support and develop citizenship. It encourages teamwork and helps to improve speaking and listening skills. It encourages resilience, reciprocity, reflection and resourcefulness.

### Introduction

At BIS we are proud to have pupil representatives that take part in Class and School Council meetings. These councils are in place so that pupils have a voice and are involved in decisions about the school that affect them.

### Every Child Matters

#### Being Healthy

Developing confidence, communication skills, and being happier as a result of being involved with school and class councils helps children develop emotional resilience. Students also help make their peers healthier by improving classic school council issues such as the loos, food in school and promoting physical activity.

#### Staying Safe

School councils engender peer leadership, openness and awareness. These qualities help make schools safer and happier places. Quite possibly the most effective anti-bullying schemes are those driven by students.

#### Enjoying and Achieving

By taking the opportunity to become involved in the school community, essential life skills such as listening, diplomacy, compromise and communication are developed. Participation structures in school help raise attainment by improving the learning environment.

#### Making a Positive Contribution

Through school councils children's belief in their ability to make a difference develops. Life skills learnt through active participation enable students to contribute to their community and wider society.



## Economic Well Being

Many school councils are given budgets to manage. The responsibility of running a budget helps children develop economic and financial awareness.

## School Council/Class Council structure

### Class Council

Through Class Council all pupils have the opportunity to raise issues, share ideas and take part in discussions that involve all of their classmates in reaching a democratic solution.

Wider issues that arise at Class Council are discussed further at School Council, this ensures that as many pupil voices as possible are heard. Pupils at BIS know that this is their school and their thoughts and ideas matter

### School Council

The school council is about:

- Learning to work together
- Learning about democracy
- Learning how to play a positive role in our community

The school council's job is to involve everyone, not do everything. It needs to get everyone:

- Finding things, they want to change
- Coming up with ways to make them better
- Putting those ideas in to action
- Seeing what works (evaluating)

### How does our class council work?

- Our whole class has a meeting every month
- The class council discuss important matters
- The class then vote for two important things to take to school council to be discussed
- The school council members then report back to the class

### What will the school council do for our class?

When you give your class representative an idea, she or he will:

- Note it down
- Take it to the next school council meeting
- Tell you what is happening to your idea within two weeks

The school council will try to make your idea happen by getting:

- Permission
- Support
- Money
- Time



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- If they can't they will tell you why not
- If they can, they will want your class to help make your idea happen

## What will staff do for the school council?

- Make sure meetings happen when they are supposed to.
- Support pupils to run meetings.
- The Head of Primary will answer all the school council's questions within one week.

## School Council organisation

- Class council officials should be nominated and then voted in by their class mates – they should not be chosen by their teachers
- Elections should be held twice a year at the beginning of the school year and after Christmas
- The Chair should lead the meetings with the Head of Primary coaching and modelling if necessary – the longer term idea is that children can do this virtually unaided
- Throughout the week, children will jot any issues, concerns, worries or ideas etc. and pass them on to their class Representative that they wish to discuss at the class council meeting
- At the meeting, the Chair will raise the first item on the agenda and invite the person who wrote it to explain their point of view
- The Chair then invites the rest of the class to discuss the matter and reach some sort of resolution
- The Secretary then makes a note of what has been decided in the minutes
- If the resolution is something that the class feels should be shared with School Council to allow wider discussion, then a note will be made in the minutes to make this clear
- REPEAT ABOVE FOR OTHER AGENDA ITEMS
- Class Council members should bring the minute book to School Council and raise any relevant issues for wider discussion and whole school resolution

## Topics Recently Resolved

- P.E. Changing room issue
- Water in Classes
- Re-Cycling Proposal
- Additional sports Equipment for the playground
- Proposal for Additional ECA club
- Develop the garden area



## Some examples

### Class Resolution

On the agenda a child has written ‘no pencil sharpeners or rubbers’, the chair invites that child to explain their point and they may say that they can never find one, or the sharpeners never work etc. The class will then discuss their points of view and all agree a way forward. The resolution may be that the class teacher is going to get some more for the class and they will be stored in a certain place, may be worth a monitor etc. The secretary writes this down and the next item on the agenda is discussed. This item does not need to go to School Council as it has been resolved at class level.

### Student council issue

Next item, ‘Broken playground toys/equipment’ the chair invites the writer to explain their point and further discussion takes place as above. The resolution may be that all children in the school need to be reminded about playing appropriately with the toys, or perhaps they have a suggestion for a change to the way the toys are given out etc. This item should go to School Council for discussion because it affects all children and requires wider discussion and resolution; this is minuted and taken to School Council.

### Resolution

School Council then discusses the matter using the same structure as Class Council; the resolution at school council may be that the Class Council officials simply remind their classes about appropriate play etc. They may want to speak with a senior member of staff with an alternative suggestion; any number of resolutions may be reached by the School Council members.

## Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually.  
Reviewed July 2021